HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION

DURING ONE OF THE HIGHEST CRIME TIMES OF THE YEAR, PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

BEFORE YOU SHOP

- AVOID CARRYING A PURSE. Use a fanny pack or deep pockets in clothing to carry what you need
- Carry small amounts of cash
- Carry your keys, cash and credit cards separate from each other and be constantly paying attention to what’s going on around you
- If you’re not sure a shopping bag will be available to you, take one of your own to the mall. Consolidate as many packages as possible.

WHILE SHOPPING

- If you have to carry a purse, carry it close to your body and always zipped
- Park strategically close to the store is optimum. Park in well-lit areas. Never park next to a van.
- Know exactly where you park your car. Make a mental note or write it down so you will know exactly where to go when you leave the store

AFTER SHOPPING

- Leave the mall/store well before closing time. This way, there is greater assurance you will walk out with other people. There is safety in numbers
- Avoid shopping until you are exhausted. You are more alert when you are less tired
- When hurried or in a crowded shop, make sure you get all forms of I.D. and credit cards returned to you before leaving
- Use an escort or mall security if you have too many packages or if you are leaving the store after closing
- Check underneath your car as you approach it. This is a common ploy of criminals in parking lots and they will take you be surprise

AT HOME

- Keep gifts hidden from view through outside windows
- After opening gifts, break down cardboard boxes of expensive electronics and fancy stores and put them in plastic bags to hide the fact you have valuable items in your home

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY A SAFE ONE